

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 16, 2004 has been carefully considered.

Claims 10, 15-20, 24-41 and 49 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were considered allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to the outstanding Office Action, applicant has canceled claims 10, 15, 43, 44, 47 and 48.

Additionally, applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate all of the subject matter of claim 10, which had been objected to, but considered allowable. Amended claim 1, claims 2 through 13, claims 32 through 41 and claim 49 which directly (or indirectly) depend from claim 1 are therefore allowable.

Applicant also amended claim 14 to incorporate all of the subject matter of claim 15, which had been objected to, but considered allowable. Amended claim 14 and claims 16 through 31 which depend from claim 14 are therefore allowable.

Applicant also amended claim 42 to incorporate all of the subject matter of claims 43 and 44, which had been objected to, but considered allowable. Amended claim 42 and claims 45 and 46 which depend from claim 42 are therefore allowable.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1-9, 11-14, 16-42, 45, 46 and 49 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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